



Musconetcong River News

Winter 2009

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Asbury, New Jersey

The MWA receives 2008 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

By Beth Styler Barry

MWA has been awarded the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in the "Healthy Ecosystems" category. The Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards were established in 2000 by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to recognize outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects in the state. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Mark Mauriello honored environmental leaders at a ceremony, held at Drumthwacket, the official residence of the Governor of New Jersey on December 4, 2008. Winners were judged on the basis of documented environmental benefits, innovation and long-term impacts of their work in the environmental field. The award categories included achievements in Environmental Education, Clean Air, Water Resources, Safe and Healthy Communities, Land Conservation, Healthy Ecosystems, Innovative Technology, and the CleanWater New Jersey Category Awards.

The application to nominate the MWA was submitted by Nancy Lawler, Technical Assistant, NJDEP Volunteer Monitoring Program and Danielle Donkersloot, NJDEP Volunteer Monitoring Program Coordinator. Each application is graded according to five judging criteria: 1. Documented Environmental Benefit, 2. Meeting Needs 3. Leadership/Innovation 4. Coverage and Replicability and 5. Education and Outreach.

Continued on page 2



MWA President Bill Leavens, MWA Executive Director Beth Styler Barry, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Mark Mauriello, MWA Vice President Kim Hood, and MWA Secretary Bill Harclerode at the award ceremony.

Warren County Club Completes Restoration Project

The Warren County Rod and Gun club, established in 1932 as a non-profit fishing and hunting club and located in Franklin Township, Warren County, completed a 3,500-foot restoration project on the Musconetcong River in the fall of 2008. The project corrected some of the river's major problems: erosion, stream flow, sediment development, and water levels. The improvements to the Musconetcong should increase the wildlife in the river by allowing for more habitat development in areas that were not inhabitable before the restoration.

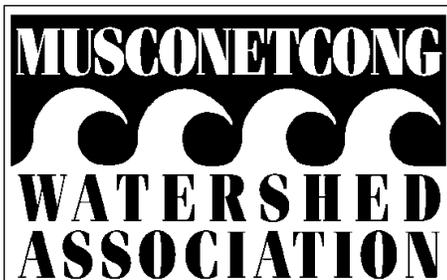
While work in the stream took only a week or so, planning and paperwork took about two years and involved working with New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service and the National Park Service. Club President Mike Zawacki and club member Art Christen

Continued on page 2

'Award' *Continued from page 1*

In the nomination, Ms. Lawler wrote "The Musconetcong Watershed Association has been at the forefront of preserving clean water for future generations by working to protect the Musconetcong River through National Wild and Scenic River System designation, restoring the river to free-flowing conditions through its dam removal projects and reminding the thousands of residents of 25 municipalities in this region of the primary importance of the river through its diverse education programs."

MWA is honored by the NJDEP Volunteer Monitoring Program's words of praise that granted us this award. A huge "thank you" is due the MWA Board of Trustees, MWA Administrative Assistant Adrienne Kaczynski and MWA members, who are the engine that makes the organization as productive as it is. We can all walk around with our heads held higher—if we can do that while keeping our nose to the grindstone! 🌀



908-537-7060

www.musconetcong.org

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Welcome New Members!

New Members of 2008

Watts Family (Family)	Gale Maleskey (Family)
Michael Nathanson (Family)	Jonathan Clymer (Family)
Tom Goeddel (Family)	Marion Berger (Family)
Bill Hannisch	Joseph Urbani (Sustaining)
Therese Foster (Family)	Gary Fegley (Family)
Steve Pauser (Supporting)	Joel Tietz (Family)
Leonard and Janice Craig (Family)	Wes Boyce (Family)
Alan Wilsey (Sustaining)	John and Patti Carno (Family)
James Rush (Supporting)	Harry Noble (Family)
Tammy Beltle (Family)	Four Paws Playground
Ken Metcalf (Family)	Lebanon Township
Sandra Howland (Family)	Environmental Commission
Wayne Fonteix (Supporting)	Lawrence Lafevre
Alexa Parliyan (Supporting)	Ben Schwartz
Nurit Baron (Family)	Nancy Lawler (Family)
Janice and Randy Cooke (Family)	James Francisco (Supporting)

'Restoration Project'

Continued from page 1

worked on permit applications and researched funding opportunities for more than a year, and then the club chose a firm to carryout the work.

The Rod and Gun club chose Joseph Urbani & Associates, Inc. of Bozeman, Montana to complete the project. The firm has extensive experience in restoration of stream fisheries degraded by past land management practices or human development and specializes in the design and construction of spawning habitat where it was previously compromised or non-existent. Urbani's design reoriented rock weirs

that were improperly installed and were causing erosion. Working with Urbani, the club designed the project to redirect the flow of the current to the center of the river and away from the banks to lessen erosion

Was it successful? According to Zawacki, "We've had a few storms that produced high flows and, so far, everything is working the way we had hoped." The project has corrected some of the river's major problems: erosion, stream flow, sediment development, and water levels. The club will soon see if the hoped for long-term improvements—increased fish and wildlife in the river—are realized. 🌀

River Resource Center Nears Completion

By Beth Styler Barry

We are thrilled to announce that opening events are being planned for the MWA River Resource Center in the month of April. Information is included in the Save the Dates on page 5 and members will receive invitations in the mail. Giving the MWA its first physical presence in the watershed, the River Resource Center will be, in addition to its office, the starting point for educational workshops and for recreational activities. It will also be a meeting place for hikers, paddlers, birders, artists, fishermen and most importantly, for concerned citizens. Below left is a current photo of the front of the building, at right is a photo of the nearly completed classroom. ☺



Riparian Buffer Plantings

By Brian Cowden
*Trout Unlimited's Musconetcong
Home Rivers Coordinator*

Riparian buffers are very important to the overall health of rivers and their tributaries. Proper buffers provide shade to keep the river cool, root systems to hold the stream's banks in place, excellent habitat especially for song birds, and control the runoff of non-point pollution from fertilizers, pesticides and excess soil from enter-

ing the river. Trout Unlimited, the MWA, the Heritage Conservancy, and our various partners actively seek out landowners who are interested in planting native trees and shrubs to provide good riparian buffers between their yards or crop fields and our river and tributaries. We work closely with private, state and federal agencies to obtain funding, plant materials or both to complete this work in the watershed. In addition, we supply the volun-

teers to do the actual plantings! If you are an interested landowner or farmer looking to plant native trees and shrubs along your section of stream or just want more information about riparian buffers, please contact Brian Cowden from Trout Unlimited at: bcowden@njtu.org or by phone at 201-230-3383. While we cannot promise that materials will always be on hand, we continually do work to provide them as needed. ☺

Volunteer!

The MWA River Watcher Program is seeking new volunteers. River Watchers perform water sampling four times a year at locations along the river. A mandatory training will take place on March 21 at 7:00.

Please contact Beth at (908) 537-7060 or beth@musconetcong.org.

Volunteer monitoring is a great way to learn about the river, spend time outdoors and contribute to protecting the Musconetcong!

MWA Annual Holiday Party

By Rosemary Kent

Festive good cheer, abundant food and drink were prevalent at the Musconetcong Watershed Association's annual holiday party hosted in Hackettstown at the spacious Arts Off Main Gallery, co-owned by our generous hosts, MWA trustee Mike Sedita and his wife Dolly Higgins.

Old and new members and guests got a chance to see the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence which was presented recently to our organization. Also on view, the just published 2009 calendar (currently on sale as a MWA fundraiser item) featuring the scenic beauty of the Musconetcong River as photographed by association members Bruce and Linda Livingston.

The mingling crowd, surrounded by a variety of artwork in this airy gallery space, were congenially talking about the near-completion of our LEED-designed River Resource Center in Asbury and about the watershed's myriad of future plans, projects and programs in 2009. For all attendees, this seasonal get together was truly a joyous celebration marking the end of a very successful, progressive year for MWA, with the promise of more to come. ☺



Bill Leavens, Stu Shafran and Laurie Zimmerman



Victoria Reiners, Laura & Rick Plumpton and Lenny Bloch



Congratulations to Matt Cordova, of Lebanon Township, winner of the 2008 MWA Canoe Raffle!!

Howard Kron, Mike Sedita and Pat Thiede



Dolly Higgins & Friend



Henry Meltzer, Sandy Gaskins-Watts and Chriss Watts



Cinnie MacGonagle

SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday, April 4, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Members Open House and Annual Members Meeting at the River Resource Center

We have worked toward this day for years and it's here—the grand opening of the MWA River Resource Center. Come out and explore our new headquarters located at 10 Maple Avenue, Asbury. The Annual Meeting will take place at this event. Refreshments will be served. Not a member? What a great time to join. Clip and send us the membership form on the back of this newsletter.

Saturday, April 18, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

17th Annual Spring Clean Up

Come out and help at the Annual Spring Clean Up. Each year we count on MWA members, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Trout Unlimited members, local citizens and kids from environmental clubs to help us pull tons of trash from local roadsides and stream banks. Afterwards participants gather at noon at the MWA River Resource Center located at 10 Maple Avenue in Asbury for hot dogs and sodas. For more information e-mail adrienne@musconetcong.org or call (908) 537-7060.

Sunday, May 3

9th Annual MWA Run/Walk for the River

Join us to either walk or run in this 4.0-mile event. Runners start at 10:00 a.m. and walkers begin at 9:45 a.m. You will find information at www.musconetcong.org. Register early to take advantage of pre-registration discounts. All participants are eligible for great drawing prizes drawing after the run.

Note: If you are not receiving e-mail reminders for these events it means that we do not have a current e-mail address. If you'd like to receive reminders and occasional "Musky News Briefs" please contact beth@musconetcong.org.

Seber Dam Removal Update

The Seber Dam removal began as we went to press with this newsletter. The MWA is removing the dam to restore the river's natural flow, improve water quality and eliminate a potential flood hazard. Following the dam removal, an extensive stream bank restoration project similar to the work done at the Gruendyke Dam site, the first dam removed by the organization, will be undertaken. Restoration work will be funded by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Trout Unlimited volunteers will lead the work of planting trees and shrubs purchased with the NRCS funding.

The MWA is pleased to welcome a new partner to this project—The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP)—which has over 225 corporate partners and 100 non-federal partners, including environmental organizations and foundations, and contributed \$15,000 toward the project. 🌱



- ◆ MWA Receives 2008 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award
- ◆ Warren County Club Completes Restoration Project
- ◆ River Resource Center Nears Completion
- ◆ Riparian Buffer Plantings
- ◆ Annual Holiday Party Recap

What's Inside:

Musconetcong River News



Asbury, NJ 08802
PO Box 113



The Musconetcong Watershed Association

The Musconetcong River Valley is rich in scenery, history, natural resources, and recreational opportunities. The river rises up in Lake Hopatcong - New Jersey's largest spring-fed lake - and is shadowed by 1,000-foot Highland ridges and slices through a deep, limestone river valley, flowing swiftly to the Delaware River. Along the way the "Musky" passes by state and county parks, bustling towns, vital industries, historic villages, and some of the most productive farmland in the state.

The Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) is a non-profit organization formed in 1991 to protect and enhance the Musconetcong River and its related resources through advocacy and environmental education programs, scientific research and river restoration projects. The MWA scope spans the 158 square-mile Musconetcong River Watershed, and includes portions of four counties, and all or portions of 25 municipalities. The Musconetcong River became part of the National Wild and Scenic River System in 2006.

MWA members are part of a network of individuals, families and organizations who care about the Musconetcong River and its watershed. They are kept informed about issues concerning the river and its related resources by receiving quarterly issues of the *Musconetcong River News*.

MWA Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the Musconetcong Watershed Association in which I will receive membership benefits and publications. I have enclosed a check payable to **MWA** for the membership category listed below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustainer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Steward |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Champion |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000+ Life Member |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail to:

Musconetcong Watershed Association
PO Box 113, Asbury, NJ 08802